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Florida American Bicentennial Commission.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF FLORIDA

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May, 1972

Florida plans for our Country's 200th Birthday

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FLORIDA'S ROLE AND SCOPE ★★★★★★★

To plan Florida's participation, the state's American Revolution Bicentennial Commission is organized into six standing committees: (1) Research and Publications; (2) Significant Sites and Properties; (3) Buildings, Exhibits and Design; (4) Local Participation and Resources; (5) Legislative; (6) Industry; and (7) Executive. These committees are now establishing guidelines for the Commission's work and it is hoped that specific planning for the celebration will be largely completed by the end of 1972. Policy already established includes:

A. The State Commission will cooperate fully and lend every possible assistance to Third Century, U.S.A., INTERAMA, and Florida International University in planning and developing Miami's role as a special Bicentennial city.

B. The Commission will cooperate with the (National) American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and carry out that Commission's three-part theme—Heritage, Open House U.S.A. and Horizons.

C. The Commission will establish a Bicentennial Trail of significant historic sites over the state and will have all sites developed and open to the public by 1976.

D. The Commission will re-publish twenty-five rare, out-of-print books on Florida History in cooperation with the University of Florida Press.

E. The Commission will sponsor traveling exhibits to "take the Bicentennial to the people." These will feature Florida's past, present and future.

F. Local participation in the Bicentennial will basically be through the **Action '76** program of community goals. Committees participating in the **Action '76** program will be granted the official Bicentennial Authority.

G. Private enterprise will be encouraged to participate through specific projects such as beautification, pollution control, and social needs.

H. While local celebrations will be encouraged, the creation of Bicentennial commissions for every county and city will not be encouraged. Rather, the regional approach will be taken, with communities participating.

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All of Florida's larger cities, including Jacksonville, will participate in the Bicentennial celebration.

Rustic Capitol in Tallahassee built in early days of Florida's government.

Osceola, great Seminole leader. His people will participate in Florida's Bicentennial.

MIAMI'S ROLE IN THE BICENTENNIAL ★★★★★

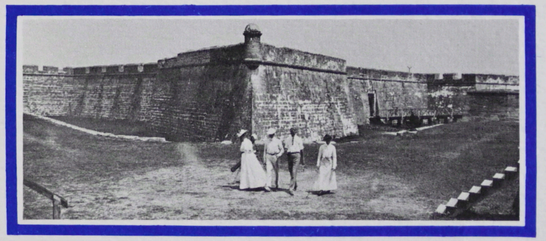
Greater Miami has been designated by the President of the United States and the National Bicentennial Commission as one of four United States cities to play special roles in the Bicentennial celebration. The others are Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

While the other cities will feature their historically significant past, particularly in the American Revolution, Miami will look more to the future of the United States. Rather than emphasizing the first two centuries of our country, Miami will offer challenges to the Nation's third century.

Plans now being considered project an extensive exposition park and a trade and cultural center on 1700 acres of public land on Biscayne Bay at North Miami. The buildings will be permanent, and some will become a part of Florida International University's North Campus.

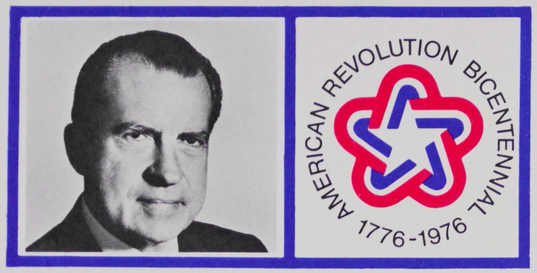
The Miami Bicentennial effort could help Florida attract as many as sixty million visitors in 1976, virtually tripling the present annual count, and giving the state's number one industry a tremendous boost.

The Miami Bicentennial plan calls for federal and state aid in a United States pavilion and exhibit, and in Florida International University facilities. The site, now valued at more than $65 million, through public and private financing could be transformed into a complex of many times that value, having the potential of attracting several additional billion dollars to the state's economy.



St. Augustine is America's oldest city and was a tourist attraction even in the 19th century.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I, myself, see the celebration of this nation's two-hundredth birthday as a commanding opportunity to evoke from our fellow citizens a deep sense of pride in our national heritage and accomplishments, and to inspire them to dedicated effort for the fulfillment of national goals yet to be attained.

The Bicentennial celebrates more than the events of the Revolution. It belongs not only to the thirteen original States, but equally to the newest and the farthest from those 18th-Century battlefields. It is a national celebration; a national anniversary; it challenges each of the 50 states and every community to look to its heritage and its hopes.

We have forged one nation from an extraordinary diversity of people, cultures, and traditions. Each generation has mastered new problems and discovered new opportunities. All this is part of the rich treasure of experience on which we must draw for the Bicentennial; and our goal must be to marshal this experience so as to launch the nation's third century with a new "Spirit of '76" that matches the first.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull settled New Smyrna in East Florida during Florida's British period (1763-1783)

BICENTENNIAL THEMES

The National Bicentennial Commission has established three themes through which all Americans will be able to participate.

HERITAGE '76

A nationwide summons to recall our heritage and to place it in its historical perspective. All groups within our society are urged to re-examine our origins, our values, and the meaning of America — to take pride in our accomplishments and to dramatize our development.

OPEN HOUSE USA

A nationwide opportunity to program activities and events, to stimulate travel, and to encourage our citizens to expand their knowledge of our country and extend a particular welcome to visitors, including those from foreign nations.

HORIZONS '76

A nationwide challenge to every American, acting individually or with others, to undertake at least one principal project which manifests the pride, the priorities, and the hopes of his community. The Commission encourages every group to pool its resources and talents in a constructive effort to demonstrate concern for human welfare, happiness, and freedom.

Dorothy Walton House — Pensacola; husband signed Declaration of Independence.

LEGISLATION PLOTS FLORIDA'S COURSE

At the request of the President of the United States and the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, the Florida Legislature in 1970 created the Florida American Bicentennial Commission, to plan and develop Florida's participation in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution (Chapter 13, Part V, Florida Statutes).

Florida's A.R.B.C. is composed of twenty-seven members, with the Governor as honorary chairman. Ten members are appointed by the Governor, five are members of the Florida Senate, and five are members of the Florida House of Representatives. Others are the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Education, the Director of Archives, History and Records Management, the Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks, and a member of the State Board of Regents.

The legislation creating the Commission charges the Commission: (1) To co-ordinate its efforts with those of the National Bicentennial Commission in developing an effective national observance; (2) To plan an overall program for commemorating the Bicentennial on a statewide basis, with participation by local and regional groups; (3) To co-operate with Miami Bicentennial efforts in carrying out that city's role as a special Bicentennial city (along with Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.); (4) To work with other state agencies in developing and carrying out the commemoration of the American Revolution.

Miami is one of four cities designated by the President and National Bicentennial Commission to play a special role in the Bicentennial.

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The celebration of our nation's two-hundredth anniversary is a momentous one for Florida. This Bicentennial commemorates more than just the one year of 1776; it celebrates our whole national experience. Florida brings to this experience a unique chapter, for the distance from St. Augustine to the Apollo moon flights is not two hundred but over four hundred years.

Besides our longer history, Florida's contribution includes the special role Miami will play in the national celebration. Chosen as one of four cities to play a special national role by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Miami symbolizes the young metropolis shaping our national destiny.

As Floridians we should enter this period of celebration with renewed pride in our rich heritage. As citizens of the fastest growing major state we should also feel pride in accepting the greater responsibilities our increasing political power imposes. In celebrating the past we re-dedicate ourselves to the principles that guide us toward the democratic ideal.

Bernardo de Galvez took Pensacola from the British in 1781, a significant event of the American Revolutionary era.